

ner and her mother Jane McKeown Gardner. They came to Utah in 1847 in Bishop Hunter's company and Joseph Horne's division of fifty and arrived in Salt Lake City on October 1.

The sturdy pioneering qualities of her father and the quiet poise and refinement of her mother were passed on to Sarah together with a profoundly religious influence and a moral fiber that were an important part of her life.

Near her old home on Mill Creek the father built the first saw mill in Utah. The permit to erect this was granted by the authority of the Latter-day Saints Church, the governing body of the new community in the west. It was the first permit granted for any industrial enterprise in the Salt Lake Valley, outside the Old Fort at Great Salt Lake.

This saw mill was a very important manufacturing plant at that time for it made one of the most needed and most useful products in a civilized community, the product of lumber. Sarah carried a vivid memory through life of the many influential and common people that came to the mill for lumber and slabs and sawdust.

The huge piles of sawdust, so clean and yellow and fresh, were the most delightful places to play.

When she was twelve years of age her father was called to settle in the southern part of the state, then called Dixie, and Sarah made this long pioneer journey.

When she was thirteen she worked for Erastus Snow, one of the Apostles, influential, and a very good man. Thus she began early in life to make her own living and to associate with great men.

She wove her own clothes and helped to make blankets. The constant spinning made a felon on her thumb. Since cotton print was 85 cents per yard they were obliged to make their own cloth regardless of how slow, hard and tedious it might be.

In 1865 her mother moved to Pine Valley where for a year or so conditions were very hard and trying. Her father built a lumber mill in this valley and sawed some of the lumber for the great Tabernacle organ.

Celestia Gardner says of her: "There were about six young ladies in the social set of Sarah's age. They were Marian Whipple, Mary and Sophia Burgess, Sarah Gardner, Elizabeth Gardner, and Mary Hawley.

"In school Sarah Snow and Sarah Gardner were always at the head of their classes. The latter seemed to be the social leader. If the girls wanted to get up a May party or a Leap-Year dance, they always consulted Sarah.

"If help was needed in the homes in case of sickness or rush of work Sarah was always called because she was capable and congenial."

Celestia remembers seeing one morning two new young men come out from Robert Gardner's saw mill to wash their faces in the little stream that ran by the mill and past her home. She learned that these boys were William and Joseph Meeks, sons of William Meeks of St. George. They had come to Pine Valley to work in Robert's mill.

Both were big handsome young men. William was easy to get acquainted with and had a keen sense of humor. Sarah had soon made friends with her father's hired man. One day he asked her to marry him. She gladly consented on condition that William could get her father's consent. William replied, "That will be easy. He is now working in his granary. I'll go over and ask him. If he refuses I'll lock him in the granary until he says yes."

They were married soon after, so the father must have consented soon. Her economy with the means she earned working and her skill in handwork enabled her to have the nicest trousseau seen for a long time in the town.

They went to Salt Lake City to be married in the Old Endowment House on November 11, 1871. The trip was made by ox-team; they took a load of lumber for the Tabernacle organ and they were six weeks on the journey. They brought back a load of furniture and made their home in Pine Valley for a time. Three of their children were born there: William, James, and Arthur.

As the young Meeks family sat around their pitch pine fire in the long winter evenings he told them of his early life and experiences. Mr. Meeks was born in Potawattome, Iowa, on February 18, 1847. His father, William Meeks, senior, was born January 9, 1815, in Spencer, Indiana, and he married Elizabeth Rhodes. She was born January 23, 1819.

William came with his parents to Utah in 1852. His father was the first Bishop of Heber City. He owned a large tract of land in Heber City which still bears his name—Meeks Meadows. They moved to Provo, Utah. When a small boy, William, Junior, and his brother were herding cows in the foot-hills of Provo. They ran into a bear. Taking each other by the hand they started running down the trail. They ran until they were "give out," then stopped, and the bear stopped, too. When rested they ran again, this time taking a different trail and in some way, left the bear behind and reached home in safety.

William went with his father to help settle Dixie and while there the Black Hawk war was on and he volunteered to help to

fight the Indians. He was with the men who went over the Escalante trail, East Boulder, and through Potato Valley, Fish Lake, and fought a battle there with the Indians. He was in company with Elijah Maxfield, Ezra T. Benson, William Gardner and many others. For his services in the Black Hawk war the government granted him a pension in his later years.

While in the Black Hawk war he rode over some fine cattle country and often thought of these grassy hills and mountains while living in the small town of Pine Valley. Sarah's close friend had married George Forsyth and as William and George worked together with their cattle they talked of this land of new and greater opportunities.

William, his brother, Joe, and George Forsyth drove their cattle to Wayne County. The valley was new and looked like a pasture everywhere. This was a welcome sight to Sarah after their long and tiresome journey with their ox-team and horse-team from Pine Valley. But their hardships were not by any means over for it was a new country and the Forsyths and the Meeks families had to help build the roads, make homes, schools and churches. They helped make three townsites for Thurber, their home. The first was down in the pasture land but this being too damp, a higher location was selected. On August 31, William was called by President Joseph F. Smith to be the bishop. He served the Thurber ward until 1895 and during this time he was justly called the "father" of the ward. He served as county commissioner where he had to go to Panguitch, Utah, for commissioner meetings. He was a leader in politics and stood for high ideals in government. He was the Chairman of the Red Cross during the Spanish American war and held the position until after the World War. He was director of the Loa Co-op for a number of years. He helped to organized the irrigation system and to build the canals for Thurber and put in two water systems for culinary purposes.

He drove the first wagon into Boulder where he established a dairy and there milked a hundred cows and made from eighty to one hundred pounds of cheese each day.

Though Sarah had a baby only six weeks old she help to milk the cows, make the cheese and take care of eight children.

The ranch was many miles from town. This summer home was but a log cabin with a dirt floor; the cheese had to be hauled 225 miles with a dead-ox wagon—a heavy awkward vehicle—to Beaver where it was exchanged for clothing, food, and other necessities.

In time sheep began crowding in on William and the Powell National Forest regulations became more rigid so he moved his cattle to the Henry Mountains near the Colorado. In time the

range became over-stocked there so William took 425 head of his cattle and sent them to Canada with his sons Will, James and Archibald.

Sarah was blessed with good health and great energy. Besides the work of the home and at the dairy she found time to be very active in the Church. She was in the Relief Society about 39 years.

While she was president at Thurber, their society erected a fine brick Relief Society hall and furnished it nicely with curtains and carpets and made it a pleasant place for the meetings. The building also had a suitable room for storing grain for the famine. At the time of the world war this grain was sold for two hundred and twenty dollars. The funds were held in trust by the Church.

During the latter part of the depression, when wheat was very cheap the money was reinvested in grain, which is now stored in the commodious warehouse in Salt Lake, in the Church security center.

ELIZABETH GARDNER HELM

Elizabeth Gardner, the daughter of Robert and Jane McKeown Gardner, was born January 12, 1851, in Mill Creek, at what is now known as Murphy's Lane and Highland Drive. She was the sixth child and the fourth daughter of a family of twelve children.

At that time the home was a two-story four-room adobe house near the south bank of Mill Creek. Surrounding it were many large cottonwood trees. The underbrush had been cleared away from part of the area, which was called Gardner's Grove, and became the picnic grounds for people living in the valley.

Near by were the homes of Grandfather Gardner, Uncle Archie, and the Bradfords. Farther west were Baileys and Masons. Some distance were the Lucks where there were some large springs. To the south were the Gates, North, and Casper families, making quite a village. Here life was pleasant for the children despite the fact they had only the bare necessities and none of the comforts of life. Everyone, even the children, had to work to provide food and clothing for the large and growing family. Thus they were early trained in industry and frugality, which has been a characteristic of them.

Mother says Mary Helm Cornwall well remembered seeing her father start on his mission walking on crutches pushing a handcart up the hill. While he was gone, Johnson's Army came

The picture of the above were taken at their respective golden wedding anniversaries.

John A. Gardner	Celestia S. Gardner	Lucy S. Gardner	Chloe S. Gardner	Sarah S. Forsyth	George Forsyth
Reuben Gardner	Royal T. Gardner	Robert B. Gardner	Ostro Gardner	Jeter Snow	Willard Snow
Maryella S. Gardner	Alice G. Snow	Melissa M. Snow			

